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Jean M. Morningstar  
President

Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee

Tuesday, February 9, 2010

I would like to thank Senator Looney, Representative Janowski, and members of this Committee for giving me the opportunity to give written testimony about the nomination of Lawrence D. McHugh to be a member and chair of the Board of Trustees for the University of Connecticut.

I offer this testimony on behalf of the Executive Committee of University Health Professionals (UHP). UHP/AFT/AFT CT/ AFL-CIO is the largest bargaining unit of the University of CT. We are the professional non-faculty employees of the University located exclusively at the Health Center. Our membership is roughly 2400, and is half of the workforce at the Health Center.

Since the Governor's temporary appointment of Mr. McHugh, the union leadership, and I in particular, have been pleasantly surprised and quite encouraged. In my tenure as Vice President, and then President of UHP (since 1994), No Board Chair has ever held a meeting with UHP, or even had a conversation with UHP. Mr. McHugh took time out of his busy schedule to have a meeting with me and UHP's First Vice President, Keith Inrig, and asked if he could meet with the full UHP Board at our convenience. He wanted our input on matters of the University, and of course, the Health Center. He listened and was quite cordial. This was new and very encouraging. I cannot express how different an atmosphere from previous Board Chairmen.

Subsequent to that meeting, Mr. McHugh asked three different Board members to meet with UHP and then, with all of the labor organizations. This dialogue gave a chance for Board members to independently hear about issues, and to make their own opinions about labor relations from labor's point of view.

This is a fantastic start to what I hope will be a respectful and civil relationship. I am sure that we will agree to disagree on many issues; but I hope that a decent dialogue can always take place. That kind of relationship with the Storrs Administration and the Board of Trustees would be novel and most welcome.

The Executive Committee of UHP wholeheartedly recommends that the resolution to appoint Mr. McHugh be passed.

Thank you,

Jean M. Morningstar  
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